

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEES (LEPCs) MISSION STATEMENTS / PURPOSES

Deer Park (Harris County), Texas LEPC:

The City of Deer Park's Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is a non-profit community organization composed of city and school district officials, police and fire emergency response personnel, industry and environmental representatives, news media, and interested citizens of Deer Park. LEPC members work together to develop plans to educate, communicate, and protect our local community in case of a chemical release.

OUR PURPOSE:

Under terms of our By-laws, the purpose of the Deer Park CAER/LEPC is to:

1. develop, train, and test a hazardous substances emergency response plan for the City of Deer Park,
2. develop procedures for regulated facilities to provide notification of a hazardous release to the LEPC
3. develop procedures for receiving and processing community right-to-know requests from the public
4. provide for public notification of committee activities.

Houston (Harris County), Texas LEPC:

Working together for a safer community. The Houston Local Emergency Planning Committee promotes emergency planning, preparedness, and public awareness to protect the Houston community from the potential impact of hazardous chemical substances and related disasters.

Nueces County, Texas LEPC:

The Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was set up in 1987. Its purpose is to plan for chemical accidents and insure the public understands the risks associated with the manufacturing, processing, transporting and storing of chemicals in the community.

The primary mission of the LEPC is to reduce risk and provide emergency response planning for chemical and hazardous materials releases. LEPC is dedicated to public education and awareness, especially in the local schools.

Southeast Region (Harris County), Texas:

The SERLEPC works with local government public safety agencies to develop emergency planning in the event of a chemical disaster and to increase citizen awareness of protection measures through community education projects.

LaPorte, Morgans Point, Shore Acres (Harris County), Texas:

To carry out for La Porte, Morgan's Point and Shorcacres located in Harris county those responsibilities established for the LEPC by Public 99-499- Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), Title III, The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, (EPCRA) and related regulations, including, but not limited to:

- 1) Assistance in developing, training and testing of (a) hazardous substances emergency response plan(s) for jurisdictions within our tri-city area.
- 2) Development of procedures for regulated facilities to provide notification to the LEPC in accordance with EPCRA.
- 3) Development of procedures for receiving and processing requests for the public under the community right-to-know provisions EPCRA.
- 4) The provision for public notification of community right-to-know activities.

To implement such other and further related activities as may hereafter be legally required by the federal government, the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), or county Judge.

Potter / Randall Counties, Texas LEPC:

To develop, train, and test a hazardous substance emergency response plan for Potter and Randall Counties. Develop procedures for regulated facilities to provide notification to the LEPC in accordance with Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) Title III.

Develop procedures for receiving and processing requests from the public under the community right-to-know provisions of SARA Title III. Provide for the public notification of committee activities.

To implement other activities as legally required by the County Judges, State Emergency Response Committee (SERC), or the Federal Government Matagorda County LEPC:

Matagorda County, Texas LEPC:

The Matagorda County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is made up of city and county elected law enforcement, fire and emergency medical officials, representatives of area industries and volunteer organizations such as the American Red Cross.

In short, LEPC members are your co-workers, friends and neighbors, who prepare for emergencies which might pose health and safety hazards to Matagorda County residents.

Such emergencies include releases of hazardous chemicals from any of the plants within the county or from any of the thousands of trucks, barges and railroad cars which carry them through the county during each year.

But they also include natural disasters like hurricanes and tornados, as well as spills of everyday chemicals like gasoline or agricultural chemicals like pesticides.

Year round, members of the LEPC meet to discuss response plans and means of better informing the public - that's YOU - about what to do when an emergency occurs.

They participate in drills at industrial plants, they help find ways to improve safety and aid the various involved organizations - police, sheriff's, fire and EMS departments, school districts and other governmental agencies, hospitals and civic and volunteer groups - work smoothly together in the event of an actual emergency.

Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska LEPC:

The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough LEPC is to prepare emergency response plans for all hazards, whether natural or manmade, occurring in the community; and to establish procedures for receiving and processing requests from the public for information generated by SARA Title III reporting requirements.

Larimer County, Colorado LEPC:

The Larimer County LEPC mission shall be to enhance and create plans directing the response to hazardous materials incidents, increase compliance with hazardous materials reporting requirements and to continue to offer access to information on the storage of such materials, for the benefit of the county's residents, businesses and industries.

The Committee shall carry out its mission in Larimer County in compliance with SARA Title III and other federal, state and local requirements in such a way that meets both the letter and spirit of those requirements and that enhances and encourages a partnership between county residents, businesses and industry through an exchange of information and mutual planning.

District 1, Florida LEPC:

The District 1 LEPC prepares regional hazardous materials emergency plans that indicate the facilities that use, produce, or store hazardous substances that are present in the jurisdiction.

D1 LEPC serves as the repository for regional reports filed under Title III of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA).

D1 LEPC directs regional Title III implementation activities and performs associated outreach functions to increase awareness and understanding of and compliance with the EPCRA program.

North Central Florida LEPC:

The North Central Florida LEPC (District 3) has the responsibility to increase chemical safety in our communities. This is accomplished through increasing response capability and accident prevention. Our tools include planning, training, reviewing, exercising, offering How-to-Comply assistance, and educating the public.

Chemical and biological weapon threats present new dangers to first responders and the public. The North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team is one way that the LEPC is working to help keep our communities safe.

Berks County, Pennsylvania LEPC:

The Berks County LEPC is the "planning arm" of the county's hazardous materials safety efforts (the SOG haz-mat team is considered the "response arm").

The primary responsibilities of the LEPC are to develop off-site emergency response plans for facilities that manufacture, store, or process hazardous materials. These plans are intended to provide emergency responders with an understanding of facility operations and information on site-specific chemical hazards.

The plan maps out transportation and evacuation routes, identifies facilities that store hazardous chemicals, identifies shelters, and compiles other emergency information that can be activated instantly.

The LEPC also is responsible for distributing chemical inventory information and off-site response plans to the public and ensuring that emergency responders are properly trained to address hazmat incidents.

The primary mission of the LEPC is to develop and implement community emergency response plans for potential releases of EPA designated extremely hazardous chemicals.

Spokane County, Washington LEPC:

"To enhance the protection of the community and the environment from hazardous materials incidents through planning, preparation and communication between citizens, business and government."

Kanawha / Putnam Counties, West Virginia, LEPC:

The KPEPC facilitates all the emergency planning needs of Kanawha and Putnam Counties and assures compliance with provisions of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA).

Matanuska - Susitna Borough, Alaska LEPC:

The Mat-Su LEPC is committed to the safety of the community by ensuring proper resources and planning for emergencies.

Coffee County, Alabama LEPC:

The Coffee County LEPC actively supports HazMat and other personnel from around the county in attending training seminars and workshops, and conducts drills and emergency exercises that test the plan and the response of HazMat and other emergency personnel in simulated emergency situations.

Glynn County, Georgia LEPC:

The MISSION of the Glynn County LEPC is to protect and serve all the citizens of the County by promoting hazardous materials safety for all segments of the community.

This includes providing and advisory, educational and technical resource for the development and implementation of hazardous materials safety programs, both in the city of Brunswick and in the unincorporated sections of Glynn County.

Chatham County, Georgia LEPC:

"The Mission of the Chatham County LEPC is to protect and serve all the citizens of the County by promoting hazardous materials safety in all segments of the community.

This includes providing an advisory, educational and technical resource for the development and implementation of hazardous safety programs, both locally and County-wide."

Columbia County, Georgia LEPC:

To prepare citizens, industries, and local emergency response agencies for chemical accidents by developing a comprehensive community program that will benefit the entire citizens of Columbia County including developing emergency response plans, conducting training exercises, and providing public education programs.

Henry County, Georgia LEPC:

To better protect the citizens, visitors, and environment of Henry County by improving our ability to mitigate hazardous material incidents of other emergency situations.

This will be accomplished through sharing information, communication, training, and and improving response procedures.

Mason County, Illinois LEPC:

The primary responsibility is to protect the public health and the environment from chemical hazards by continually identifying facilities that manufacture, process or store these materials in Mason County.

This responsibility extends to informing and educating the public about methods it can use to protect itself and to assist governmental agencies to become better prepared to meet possible emergency events caused by these hazardous materials.

Winnebago County, Illinois LEPC:

Shortly after the enactment of SARA Title III the Winnebago County LEPC was formed when the emergency response community came together to fill the need for a countywide approach to hazardous materials incidents.

The events of Bhopal, India (see below) gave warning to the State of Illinois and the County to prepare for the worst and exercise the preparedness plans on a countywide basis. This forward thinking group was made up of city and county response agencies.

The agenda was simple; prepare a response plan, work together, help our neighboring communities when needed, know where the hazards lie, in essence, be prepared.

Johnson County, Kansas LEPC:

LEPC Mission:

- to collect & maintain information on hazardous materials being used in or passing through the county;
- to analyze associated risks & vulnerabilities, and develop an effective emergency plan;
- to make planning information readily available to responders & the general public; &
- to provide a continuing forum for the local community to discuss hazardous materials issues

Fayette County, Kentucky LEPC:

The primary mission of the Fayette LEPC is to develop and implement a community emergency response plan for releases of Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS); provide an interface between facilities handling EHS and the public; and provide education for appropriate protective actions to the community.

McLean County, Kentucky LEPC:

To develop and maintain a comprehensive emergency plan for the community.

To receive information about accidental chemical releases.

To annually update the information about chemicals stored or used by local facilities (through the collection of the Tier II reporting forms).

To collect, manage and provide public access to information on hazardous chemicals in the area, as well as support the local fire department and emergency response teams.

To educate the public about risks from accidental and routine releases of chemicals and work with facilities to minimize risks.

Hartford County, Maryland LEPC:

The Harford County Local Emergency Planning Committee is strongly committed to the safety of Harford County's citizens by assuring proper resources and planning for environmental emergencies.

The LEPC is an active group of emergency responders, planners, business representatives, health care providers, elected officials, citizens and media that work together for the preservation of our environment.

Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana LEPC:

Appointed by the State Emergency Response Commissions, the LEPC includes representatives from state and local government, law enforcement, civil defense, fire fighting, first aid, health, environmental and transportation agencies, hospitals, broadcast and print media, community groups, and businesses that are subject to EPCRA requirements.

The LEPC develops an emergency plan, which is reviewed annually, to prepare for and respond to chemical emergencies.

The LEPC also receives emergency release and chemical inventory information from local facilities and make this information available to the public on request. They also have the authority to request information from facilities for their own planning purposes.

Every LEPC serves as a focal point for each community for information and discussions about hazardous substances, emergency planning, and health and environmental risks.

LEPCs can be effective in taking steps to educate the public about chemical risks and working with businesses to minimize those risks.

Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts LEPC:

The mission of the MVR-LEPC is to protect the people, property, and natural resources within its jurisdiction from the potential effects of emergencies involving hazardous materials.

The purposes of the MVR-LEPC are:

- To improve the ability of the local governments, volunteer organizations, institutions, and general public within its jurisdiction to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies involving hazardous materials.
- To support the governments of the six member towns and the businesses in each of the towns in following rules and regulations relating to hazardous material emergency preparedness.
- To improve coordination among the six towns, surrounding towns, and State and Federal organizations in planning for, training for, and responding to emergencies involving hazardous materials.
- To provide the general public in the six communities with information concerning the use of and incidents related to hazardous materials and plans for responding to hazardous material emergencies.

Washington County, Maryland LEPC:

With the safety of the public in mind, a coalition of respective government, the chemical industry, public and private agencies have voluntarily prepared and tested a working plan for any such emergency.

Knowledge of how to respond safely and appropriately on the part of everyone who may become involved, greatly lessens the chance of injury and brings peace of mind to all.

Mid-America Regional, Kansas LEPC:

The Mid-America Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) brings private industry together with public emergency response agencies in the five Missouri counties of the Kansas City metropolitan region.

The purpose of the LEPC is to help reduce the community's risks from accidents involving hazardous chemicals.

Chemicals are used by public and private facilities throughout our metropolitan area. These chemicals are used to provide essential services, like clean water, and to manufacture goods at area industries.

Chemicals such as gasoline are transported daily along the area's highway and rail systems.

Although companies that handle or transport these chemicals in the Kansas City area have excellent safety records, we need to plan for, and be capable of responding to, accidental releases of these chemicals.

Guilford County, North Carolina LEPC:

The Mission of the Guilford County LEPC is to assist the business community and local government agencies in developing plans for responding to emergencies created by chemical spills or releases; and to inform and educate the public about hazardous chemicals in the community and the Guilford County Emergency Response Plan.

The purpose of the LEPC:

- To identify business facilities in Guilford County that manufacture, process, or store hazardous chemicals and to assist these facilities in preparing emergency response plans;
- To inform and educate the public about chemical facilities in the community and actions that can be taken in the event of an accidental chemical spill or release into the environment; and
- To work to assist governmental and emergency response agencies in being well prepared to respond to and handle any and all emergencies, associated with chemical spills or releases, that may occur in Guilford County.

Lowndes County, Mississippi LEPC:

To minimize the effects of hazards and disasters upon the population and property of the Lowndes County area through an all-hazards integrated emergency management approach which includes the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

The objectives of the Lowndes County LEPC are to:

- Identify potential hazards in Lowndes County. Recently, the role of the has expanded to encompass a more all-hazards approach to emergency planning.
- Compare our present capabilities for response to hazards that are identified.
- Develop mutual cooperation between industry and government in pre-planning for response to all potential hazards.
- Coordinate the development, review, revision, and exercising specific elements of the Lowndes County Emergency Operations Plan.
- Conduct an on-going review program to establish additional requirements to insure a safe and adequate response to hazardous material accidents or incidents.
- Improve the public health and safety in the community.

Princeton Township, New Jersey LEPC:

The LEPC is made up of representatives from 15 disciplines or responsibilities in the community, including health, fire, industry, members of the public, and public safety.

Since the committee represents every component of the community, it's major role is to assure that the community has effective plans to deal with hazardous chemical emergencies and to establish subcommittees to address resource capabilities, emergency multi-hazard planning and other emergency related specific tasks.

Bernalillo County, New Mexico LEPC:

To support the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Office of Emergency Preparedness to keep the community safe from the effects of hazardous materials in order to assure effective response to hazardous materials emergencies.

Rowan County, North Carolina LEPC:

It is an organization of industrial, governmental and citizen member groups whose purpose is to provide a forum in which the local community and facilities can discuss issues related to hazardous substances.

Objectives for the Council were identified on 27th April 1987 as:

- Establishment of the HMAC.
- Evaluation of risks and hazards in the Rowan County area.
- Identification of emergency responders and establishing their roles.
- Establishment of an integrated emergency response plan.
- Evaluation of training and equipment needs.
- Obtaining of governmental approval of the emergency plan.
- Establishment of a method for periodically reviewing the plan.
- Conducting of an emergency response exercise; and
- Education of the public about the plan.

Adams County, Nebraska LEPC:

The mission of the Adams County LEPC is to work cooperatively to seek out, discuss and evaluate the potential risk from hazardous chemicals (i.e. those products that have a Material Safety Data Sheet - MSDS) stored in and transported through the county, to seek ways to minimize the risk, to collect and make available information about hazardous chemicals in the community and to work cooperatively in this effort with all public safety agencies, local officials, business and industry and the general public... for the people of Hastings and Adams County.

It is the main function of the LEPC to look after community interests in regard to hazardous materials incidents that may occur there.

The LEPC is the coordinating point for both planning and training activities at the local level.

The LEPC also receives emergency release and chemical inventory information submitted by local industrial facilities and makes this information available to the community it serves.

In addition to its formal responsibilities, the LEPC often serves as a focal point for information and discussions about hazardous substances.

The LEPC's ability to maintain and improve safety and health of its community is greatly enhanced by the support of an informed citizenry.

Muskogee County, Oklahoma LEPC:

LEPC, Protecting You and the Environment

While we enjoy an excellent quality of life, living in our community has never been and will never be risk free.

Hazardous materials are manufactured here and are transported through our county by pipelines, trucks, air, and trains. The risk, however slight, always exists for an accident to occur.

The LEPC was created in Fall of 1987. The LEPC brings together an Emergency Management Team which includes state, county, and city officials, Industry emergency response representatives, the Medical community, Environmental organizations, the News media, and Community Service Organizations.

The objectives of the LEPC are to develop Hazardous Material Inventory and Release Reporting procedures, and the development of a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan to be implemented in the event of a hazardous material release in our area.

The success of any Emergency Response Plan also depends upon an informed and educated public. What would you do if a hazardous material emergency occurred near your home or your place of work? What would your child's day care provider or school do?

The purpose of this information is to inform you on what to do in case of a hazardous material emergency in our County, and educate you on how to obtain information on potential chemical hazards and chemical storage inventories within our County.

Delaware County, Pennsylvania LEPC:

The mission of the Delaware County LEPC is to promote safety in the community by promoting hazardous materials awareness, supporting planning efforts, encouraging cooperative partnerships between the community and industry, and developing and sponsoring educational and training program relative to hazardous materials for the Delaware County emergency response community, industry and the community.

Charleston County, South Carolina LEPC:

The Charleston County LEPC was organized to fulfill the requirements of the federal regulations regarding Title III of the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986.

The organization is composed of concerned citizens and representatives of industry and emergency services.

The LEPC seeks to formulate a partnership between its diverse members to prepare the county to withstand the effects of hazardous materials emergencies through planning and exercising of a comprehensive emergency action plan.

Oregon LEPC:

The mission of Oregon's LEPC is to ensure local communities are prepared for and capable of responding to hazardous materials incidents. This is accomplished by working with and through organizations and individuals that may be affected by a hazardous materials incident.

This is accomplished by assisting communities throughout Oregon review and test their local hazardous materials emergency response plans.

Goals of the LEPC include:

- Target and focus hazardous materials planning activities so the LEPC will accomplish localized planning from a statewide perspective.
- Ensure that community-based Hazardous Materials Incident Response Planning is accomplished.
- Verify that communities are prepared to respond to; control; and mitigate hazardous materials incidents.
- Ensure that the individual plans and SOPs of the various organizations involved in a hazardous materials incident response coordinate and function together as a single operational unit.

The Oregon LEPC is organized into workgroups which focus on community planning, prevention and response activities for facilities containing extremely hazardous substances as defined by federal legislation.

These activities include planning, training, exercising, providing public information and risk communication.

The LEPC is involved in a number of projects that affect local communities, including developing and delivering training courses for emergency responders and citizens; grants for community projects such as commodity flow studies, hazardous materials exercises, school "Shelter in Place" programs and other community awareness activities.

Davison County, South Dakota LEPC:

The purpose and goal of the Davison County LEPC is to carry out the responsibilities set fourth in SARA (Superfund Amendment Reauthorization Act) Title III and to ensure Davison County as a jurisdiction continues to prepare for all natural and technological emergencies and disasters.

It is also to form professional relationships among agencies to increase cooperation, coordination, and interactions among those agencies that will be necessary during those same incidents

Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania LEPC:

The mission of the L.E.P.C. is as follows:

- To develop plans to minimize emergency situations
- To ensure appropriate response to a release of a hazardous material
- To create a forum to foster knowledge of chemical related hazards and protective measures

L.E.P.C. Initiatives

The L.E.P.C. undertakes the following initiatives in order to meet the goals of it's mission:

- Identifying the chemicals stored, used and/or manufactured in the communities of Schuylkill County and determining the health risks that those chemicals pose to the public.
- Developing a comprehensive emergency plan for each facility and keeping the plans current.
- Receiving information about accidental chemical releases
- Collecting, managing and providing public access to information on hazardous chemicals in the communities of Schuylkill County.
- Developing training programs to enhance emergency response capabilities
- Educating the public about risks from accidental and routine releases of chemicals and to work with facilities to minimize these risks.

Roane County, Tennessee LEPC:

The Primary mission of the Roane Co. LEPC is to develop and maintain a comprehensive county-wide emergency response plan; evaluate county and industrial facility response plans in accordance with SARA/EPCRA; integrate response capabilities, and foster cooperative efforts between local governments and industries.

Chittenden County, Vermont LEPC:

The mission of the Chittenden County LEPC is to Provide resources and guidance to the community through education, coordination and assistance in hazmat planning to assure public health and safety

Taylor County, Texas LEPC:

Under EPCRA, an LEPC is the primary focal point for chemical emergency response planning and implementation in a community.

The LEPC's key responsibilities are:

- assisting local governments in developing hazardous materials emergency response plans.
- evaluating the community's need for resources to respond to hazardous materials emergencies.
- processing requests from the public for information on hazardous chemicals in their communities.

Anderson County, Tennessee LEPC:

To carry out for Anderson County those responsibilities required of the LEPC pursuant to public law 99-499, SUPERFUND AMENDMENTS AND PREAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1986 (SARA) TITLE III, and related regulations including but not limited to:

- Development, training, and testing of a hazardous substance response plan for Anderson County.
- Development of procedures for regulated facilities to provide notification to the LEPC in accordance with SARA TITLE III.
- Development of procedures for receiving and processing requests from the public under the community right-to-know provisions of SARA TITLE III.
- Provision for an annual notice of public availability of the emergency response plans, material safety data sheets, and tier I and II inventory reports as submitted by facilities subject to this law.
- Provision for public notification of committee activities, public meetings to discuss the emergency plan, public comments, response to such comments by the committee, and the distribution of the emergency plan.

Berkeley County, West Virginia LEPC:

"Protection of the community and the environment from hazardous materials incidents through planning, preparation and communication between citizens, business and government."

Hidalgo County, Texas LEPC:

The Hidalgo County LEPC is made up of city and county officials, law enforcement, fire and emergency medical personnel, representatives of area industries, the media, and volunteer organizations.

In 1986, the U.S. Congress passed a law called the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA), requiring every county in the nation to form and maintain an LEPC.

This group supports emergency planning for chemical hazards and provides local government and the public with information about possible chemical hazards.

In short, LEPC members are your co-workers, friends, and neighbors, who prepare for emergencies, which might pose health and safety hazards to Hidalgo County residents.

Such emergencies include releases of hazardous chemicals from any of the plants within the county or from any of the thousands of trucks and railroad cars which carry them through the county each year.

They also include natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornadoes, as well as spills of everyday chemicals like gasoline or agricultural chemicals and pesticides.

Year round, members of the LEPC meet to discuss response plans and means of better informing the public – that's YOU – about what to do when an emergency occurs.

The participate in drills at industrial plants, they help find ways to improve safety and aid the various involved organizations – police, sheriff's, fire and EMS departments, school districts and other governmental agencies, hospitals, civic and volunteer groups – work smoothly together in the event of an actual emergency.

Jasper County, Texas LEPC:

In addition to its formal responsibilities, the LEPC serves as a focal point in the community for information and discussions about hazardous substances, emergency planning, and health and environmental risks. Citizens will expect the LEPC to reply to questions about chemical hazards and risk management actions.

It can also anticipate questions about the extent and the health and environmental effects of routine toxic chemical releases. Even though this information is not required by the law to be sent to LEPCs, EPA and the states are working together to ensure this information is available at the local level.

Many companies are voluntarily providing local committees and other citizens with this information. An LEPC can most effectively carry out its responsibilities as a community forum by taking steps to educate the public about chemical risks, and working with facilities to minimize those risks.

The value of the information provided by the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act will be limited unless citizens are given the means to understand the information and its implications.

The LEPC's ability to improve the safety and health of its community will be greatly enhanced by the support of an informed and active citizenry.

District VI, Vermont LEPC:

The LEPC has the following mission:

- To develop a comprehensive emergency plan and continuously maintain it through community involvement.
- To maintain an all hazards plan through ongoing effective community involvement.
- To receive and disseminate information concerning accidental chemical releases.
- To collect, manage, and provide public access to information on hazardous chemicals.
- To educate the public about the risks from accidental and routine releases of chemicals.
- To work with facilities to minimize the risks of accidental releases of chemicals.

Purpose and Need of LEPC Exercises

The purpose of the LEPC exercises will be to:

- Improve community readiness for response to actual emergencies
- Identify procedural and policy inadequacies
- Improve inter-agency cooperation
- Resolve inter-agency conflicts
- Identify inter-agency roles and responsibilities
- Identify resource needs
- Improve the effectiveness of training
- Improve emergency plans, procedures and actions
- Build public support for emergency planning and awareness

Safety of community members from natural and human-caused events is the primary objective of an hazardous materials emergency response.

An exercise gives preparedness, response and recovery agencies the opportunity to assess their strengths and weaknesses as the result of a hazardous materials incident exercise.

As the result of an exercise, LEPC members can modify the local emergency plan to help build on the strengths of the plan and consequently, eliminate the weaknesses discovered in the plan during an exercise.

Peninsula, Virginia LEPC:

The function of the LEPC is:

- establish procedures for receiving and processing requests from the public for information about and/or copies of emergency response plans, material safety data sheets and chemical inventory forms;
- educate the public about risks from accidental and routine releases of chemicals, and work with facilities to minimize such risks within the region;
- encourage hazardous materials training of public and quasi-public personnel within the region;
- act as a repository for EPCRA TIER II reports from industry;
- provide assistance to industry to help complete TIER II reports;
- direct requests for information to the appropriate official/member of the LEPC;
- develop and maintain the emergency response plan for the local emergency planning area; and
- observe and critique emergency training exercises for the area.

Monongalia County, West Virginia LEPC:

The LEPC's mission is to provide an established, coordinated response to protect the public from the harmful effects of a hazardous materials release, which may affect people or property within the jurisdictional boundaries of Monongalia County.

Ritchie County, West Virginia LEPC:

Established in 2001, the Ritchie County LEPC is a committee formed under the supervision of the Ritchie County Office of Emergency Services to plan, prepare, and conduct training on all types of emergency situations which may arise in rural Ritchie County and to write, evaluate and revise standing operating procedures for the emergency services of Ritchie County.

Douglas County, Nebraska LEPC:

The Douglas County LEPC is a volunteer group of public and private members appointed to promote emergency planning, preparedness and public awareness to protect the communities of Douglas County Nebraska from the potential impact of hazardous materials and other incidents/disasters.

Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana LEPC:

Appointed by the State Emergency Response Commissions, the LEPC includes representatives from state and local government, law enforcement, civil defense, fire fighting, first aid, health, environmental and transportation agencies, hospitals, broadcast and print media, community groups, and businesses that are subject to EPCRA requirements.

The LEPC develops an emergency plan, which is reviewed annually, to prepare for and respond to chemical emergencies.

The LEPC also receives emergency release and chemical inventory information from local facilities and make this information available to the public on request. They also have the authority to request information from facilities for their own planning purposes.

Every LEPC serves as a focal point for each community for information and discussions about hazardous substances, emergency planning, and health and environmental risks.

LEPCs can be effective in taking steps to educate the public about chemical risks and working with businesses to minimize those risks.

Curry County, New Mexico LEPC:

To coordinate with the Clovis-Curry County Emergency Management Director and all first response agencies to make resources available to keep the community safe from the effects of hazardous materials and any other natural/man made hazards, and to assure effective response to all emergencies.

VISION

That the population of Curry County be well informed about the hazardous materials present in the community and know how to respond appropriately to emergencies.

Further, that businesses and agencies with hazardous material/operations are knowledgeable of their legal obligations under SARA Title III and the compliance processes made available through the Curry County LEPC.

Will County, Illinois LEPC:

Making the community aware of the risks associated with the manufacture, use, storage, and transportation of hazardous chemicals is the LEPCs most important mission.

Equally important is information regarding the steps being taken to reduce risks both on a day-to-day basis and in the event of a hazardous chemical substance.

The LEPC makes specific information available upon public request.

Thurston County, Washington LEPC:

The purpose of the Thurston County LEPC is to coordinate hazardous materials issues and carry out the mandate of the Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA).

The LEPC provides an opportunity for local businesses, response agencies and citizens to share information about:

- Hazardous substances in the community.
- Emergency planning measures.
- Health and environmental risks due to hazardous substances.

Washoe County, Nevada LEPC:

The Washoe LEPC is strongly committed to the safety of Washoe County's citizens by assuring proper resources and planning for environmental emergencies.

The LEPC is an active group of emergency responders, planners, business representatives, health care providers, elected officials, citizens, and media that work together for the preservation of our environment.

Hazardous materials, when properly controlled, are important in everyday life.

Uncontrolled, they may cause injury, death, destruction, and lingering effects that may last for many years.

To meet the risk, a concerted effort must be made to identify, locate, quantify, and have some knowledge of the hazardous materials in Washoe County.

The routes and modes of transportation of these chemicals must also be known in order to assess the overall possible danger posed by these materials.

Emergency planning for hazardous materials releases cannot be solved successfully by any one organization or group, but must be accomplished through the cooperative efforts of local, State, and Federal authorities working in cooperation with the private sector.

Hancock County, Maine LEPC:

THE HANCOCK COUNTY LEPC is your avenue to information about hazardous substances in your community and provides the residents of Hancock County a place where they may gain access to this information.

OUR PURPOSE IS

- to assist the public in obtaining information concerning possible risks in their community.
- to inform the public by increasing awareness of the identity of hazardous substances that are present or may be transported through their community.
- to receive information, analyze hazards, and develop a plan to prepare for and respond to chemical emergencies.

There are more than 50 different hazardous chemicals, stored in over 80 locations in Hancock County, reported to the LEPC.

Hazardous substances are not only found at large chemical plants. They are also used routinely in many small operations - garages, distributors of home heating fuel, etc.

Being a transportation corridor for "downeast", do you know how much chemical travels our roadways?

For the law to work, industry, interested citizens, environmental and other public interest organizations, and government at all levels must work together to plan for chemical accidents and to reduce the risk to the public from releases of toxic chemicals into the environment.

The law establishes an ongoing forum at the local level for discussion and a focus for action

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (SARA Title III) was written specifically with you in mind.

It is based on the principle that the more you and your neighbors know about hazardous chemicals in your community, the better prepared your community will be to manage these potential hazards and improve public safety.

By volunteering to work with your LEPC, you can play a major role in making the law work.

Dealing with Chemicals: It's Everybody's Job.

City of Wayland Massachusetts LEPC:

To ensure all available and appropriate resources are working to minimize the impact of hazardous material releases on our community. And at all times be Ready to Respond.

We accomplish this by:

- Analyzing Hazardous Material Risks in our community.
- Working with facilities to mitigate any risks.
- Identifying 'at risk populations'.
- Training and education programs.
- Equipment Assessment Analysis.
- Preparing a detail Response Plan.
- Maintaining and testing Response Plans.
- Developing public outreach programs.
- Making available, to the public, pertinent information.